



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

POST OFFICE BOX 6638 \* PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85005-6638

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Direct Inquiries to:  
Harold A. Sanders  
Office: (602) 223-2460**

The Department of Public Safety wants to promote awareness reference sex offenders in Arizona and the potential threat they pose to Arizona citizens. Sex offenders according to Arizona Revised State Statutes 13-3821 and 13-3822, are required to register and provide their current name and address annually. Specifically, we need the public to be aware of those sex offenders who are required to register and have failed to do so. DPS Director Roger Vanderpool stated, "The public's help to locate and identify the absconders is crucial. It is the intent of DPS to enhance the quality of life in our communities and we will continue to commit our resources to track down the absconders who violate the law."

In July 2005, Governor Janet Napolitano announced the state's plans to provide the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) with additional resources and staffing for the Sex Offender Compliance Unit. The Governor's support provided resources for the DPS initiative "Project Absconder," a program designed to track and locate offenders that have failed to register. The DPS unit is responsible for tracking each of the approximately 14,000 registered sex offenders and maintaining current records of their status.

At the time Project Absconder was launched on June 29, 2005, there were 957 absconders. Through the efforts of the DPS Sex Offender Compliance Unit, that number was brought down to 204. Unfortunately, the number of new absconders has grown to 489, bringing the total number being sought to 693.

DPS maintains a Web site titled the "Sex Offender InfoCenter" containing the names, photos and initial identification information of the sex offenders that have absconded or failed to register. The Web site is very easy to navigate and retrieve information. We are requesting all media sources statewide to visit the site and download photo and information on each absconder and to publish the information according to their media distribution format.

**Web Site:** There are two options to visit the DPS Sex Offender InfoCenter site.

**Arizona Department of Public Safety Main Web Site:**

<http://www.azdps.gov>

Find the link at the bottom of the Web page "Sex Offender InfoCenter."

**Direct URL:**

<http://az.gov/webapp/offender/main.do>

From the Sex Offender InfoCenter Main Web page, go to the Services Menu on the left edge, "Search sub-menu" then to "Absconder," to reach the current list of offenders that have failed to register. Each offender profile can be copied (highlight and right click) either by photo only or by photo and accompany profile information. The Web site is updated daily to reflect when offenders are either caught by law enforcement or register. Please advise the public to visit the Web site to search the information on sex offenders and provide a link from your Web site to the Sex Offender InfoCenter site.